

DUXBURY BEACH

Wednesday, June 1, 2005

Duxbury Clipper

From the Duxbury Beach Reservation: Storm Damage Slows Fence Repair

During the prolonged storm the week of May 20-26, 2005, Duxbury Beach was hit hard. Most of the 24,000 lineal feet of snow fence that was installed new this spring was destroyed, and many of the supporting posts were lost or displaced. Dune erosion on the east side of the dunes was significant. The east sides of the vehicle crossovers were severely damaged, and even the pedestrian access ramps sustained damage.

Due to the summer season

being almost upon us, financial restraints, and the need to refrain from any activities that may interfere with plover re-nesting (the first round of plover nests washed away in the earlier nor'easter), the Reservation will not be able to repair all the damage prior to the start of summer. In an effort to keep the beach open this summer, the Reservation plans to immediately re-grade the main road, repair the vehicle crossovers, and replace the snow fence in high traffic

areas only.

Snow fencing is used not only to trap sand but also to keep people out of the dune areas to enhance vegetation growth and dune stabilization. For this reason, where the broken snow fence is not being replaced, the Reservation will leave it where it now stands and put up a double row of string attached to the fence posts to indicate areas in which people are not allowed.

Because of our past success in educating the public

about protecting the plover nests and broods, the Reservation is confident that beach visitors will cooperate by not crossing this double row of string to enter the dunes. Again, our goal is to keep the beach open, and as long as people are careful to heed the signs and stay out of the roped-off areas, we will be able to do so. We expect to have the fence reinstalled by next spring in time for next summer's season.